

Complete Listing of Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 the following is a complete listing of the claims of the present application. In this set of claims, please amend claims 1, 2, 3 and 7 as follows. With the amendments to the aforementioned claims, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. [currently amended] A purified and isolated caspase polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least about 98% identical to ~~30 contiguous amino acids of~~ an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 77, wherein said polypeptide comprises a QACXG domain and possesses caspase activity.

2. [currently amended] A purified and isolated caspase polypeptide comprising ~~at least about 20 contiguous amino acids of~~ an amino acid sequence that is at least about 95% identical an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 77, wherein said polypeptide comprises a QACXG domain and possesses caspase activity.

3. [currently amended] A purified and isolated caspase polypeptide ~~according to claim 2~~ comprising ~~at least about 40 contiguous amino acids of~~ an amino acid sequence that is at least about 90% identical an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 77, wherein said polypeptide comprises a QACXG domain and possesses caspase activity.

4. [previously presented] A purified and isolated caspase polypeptide according to claim 1 comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 77.

5. [previously presented] A purified and isolated caspase polypeptide according to claim 1 or 2 comprising at least one subunit of human caspase-12.

6. [cancelled]

7. [previously presented] A purified and isolated caspase polypeptide according to claim 1 encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions

comprising hybridization at 42°C in a hybridization solution comprising 50% formamide, 1% SDS, 1 M NaCl, 10% Dextran sulfate, and washing twice for 30 minutes at 60°C in a wash solution comprising 0.1x SSC and 1% SDS, to a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 76, and the non-coding strands thereof.

8. [previously presented] A purified and isolated fusion polypeptide comprising a caspase polypeptide according to claim 1.